

Fremont Conservation Commission
03-15-10 Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 15, 2010
Approved April 5, 2010

Present: Chairman John (Jack) Karcz, Members Bill Knee, Janice O'Brien and Pat deBeer; and Alternate Leanne Minor, Alternate/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:05 pm and welcomed Leanne Miner as a newly appointed Conservation Commission Alternate.

There is a vacancy on the Fremont Conservation Commission at this time. Chrm. Karcz designated Alternate Leanne Miner to fill the vacancy until such time as the Selectmen have appointed someone to serve as a full Commission Member (allowed by NH RSA 673:12, III).
Mrs. Miner accepted.

MINUTES

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting as written.
Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with favorable vote.

TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

UNH CO-Op and NH Fish & Game

Frank Mitchell and Amanda Stone of the Land & Water Conservation Division of the UNH Cooperative Extension, met with the Commission relative to the Taking Action for Wildlife Program service grant that was awarded to Fremont. Mark Traeger of Sandown also joined the group.

Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Stone showed a Taking Action for Wildlife presentation and offered an overview of what the action plan entails including to identify species at risk, assess threats to their existence, and strategies for Planners, Conservation Committees and others interested in land conservation.

Mr. Mitchell said that the Wildlife Action Plan is in the Fish & Game website and downloadable in chapters. Habitat stewardship information can be found on the UNH Cooperative Extension website. There was a sheet in the information package that listed various web pages on the NH Wildlife Action Plan and related sources.

Ms. Stone submitted handouts that included some general information, an agenda summary of NH Wildlife Action Plan Information, the NH Heritage Bureau report on "Rare Species and Natural

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Communities known in Fremont as of July, 2009. It also included information relative to how development impacts wildlife and actions that local municipalities can take to minimize that impact.

The group viewed the new Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) Maps.

- The 2010 NH Wildlife Habitat Land Cover map shows the locations of known and potential critical wildlife habitat in the State.
- The 2010 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition map shows the highest rank habitat by condition; 1) in NH; and 2) in biological region. It also shows supporting landscaped, developed land cover and conservation/or public land.

Ms. Stone said that the map viewing was to choosing an area, or areas, for what habitats might be occurring and what habitats the Conservation Commission would like to protect. There was a conversation relative to the recently completed Open Space Plan and how it might play into a wildlife plan in terms of habitat connection.

Ms. Stone stated that since the grant was applied for by, and awarded to, Fremont they wanted to meet first with Fremont to focus on moving forward with what the Members had in mind. She said that they have had a positive response from Danville, Sandown and Chester and the next meeting may lead to a potential regional meeting. Ms. Stone said that the object is to look at the Town-wide picture, then look at the bigger picture for wildlife habitat. She added that finding joint interests with several adjoining Towns can produce a wider outcome. Ms. Stone and Mr. Mitchell both stated that they can work on a project with just Fremont or on a project with several Towns as regional effort – or both. Mr. Traeger said there is \$20,000 of CTAP monies available for regional project. This triggered a discussion relative to the possibility of using the funds as a whole or dividing it up between several Towns.

Mr. Traeger asked if Fremont is looking for more regulation or more conservation. Chrm. Karcz said that he felt the idea was to look at what we have for wildlife habitat and see how we can enhance and work with it. The Members agreed that the object is to provide education, awareness, planning, provide community contact. Ms. Stone offered that one project could be a map that overlays water resources and wildlife for the four Towns. Projects such as vernal pool workshops, outreach, and brochures were discussed.

Some goals that Mr. Mitchell outlined as a result of this discussion were:

1. Residents appreciate the value of water resource and wildlife habitat protection.
2. Increase public support for water resources and wildlife habitat (residents, voters and leaders).
3. Adjacent communities collaborate toward water resource and wildlife and their habitat.
4. Additional water resources and wildlife habitat will be protected.

Actions:

- Compare open space plan priority areas with NH wildlife action plan maps consistency.

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- Initiate an upper Exeter River Watershed Initiative as a conduit for multi-town co-op outreach).
- Other tasks to be decided at the March 30, 2010 regional meeting (or before, by FCC).

Mbr. Knee said that he is looking at watershed modeling types of things such as watershed mapping, initiate an "Upper River Watershed Committee" that would look at wildlife habitat for the four Towns that could be a strong conduit for the region. Mr. Mitchell said that all the Towns are interested in outreach so coming up with a name and moving forward with an effort makes sense. He asked if there is a contour map for the four Towns. Mbr. deBeer said that she can do boundaries with the topography.

The Taking Action for Wildlife potential regional meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on March 30, 2010 in the main floor meeting room at the Town Hall. The Members agreed to wait to see how the regional meeting goes and then decide how they want to proceed.

At 9:05 pm the Members thanked Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Stone who, with Mr. Traeger, left the meeting at that time.

The Members discussed the local option. Mbr. Knee suggested that the Commission needs to make their original goals clear. Mbr. O'Brien said she would like to see some kind of educational value come out of this; i.e. some sort of presentation of what we have, identify the wildlife habitat in an area other than Glen Oakes, but she also likes the regional idea. Chrm. Karcz said he thought we were headed toward more detail in what we have, such as a bird study.

Mbr. Knee explained bio-blitzing where professionals volunteer some hours to come into the Town and share their expertise by leading small groups of people in looking for different types of species. It could be beneficial for the professionals to lead groups. Different scopes of the bio-blitz method were briefly discussed. Mbr. O'Brien agreed that this, and wildlife protection, is what she initially had in mind when she first applied for the grant. The Members agreed that this is the direction they want to go in and Chrm. Karcz suggested that they relate the Members decision at the regional meeting.

BROWNFIELD

The Commission received a copy of a March 8, 2010 correspondence to Theresa Walker from John Liptak, project manager of the NH DES Hazardous Waste Remediation Bureau stating that he has received the July 2009 Supplemental Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Report, prepared by Credere Associates, LLC, regarding the Hammond property at 431 Sandown Road, Fremont, (Site #200809007) and agrees with the report that additional groundwater sampling is necessary and a remedial action plan/analysis of Brownfields cleanup alternatives should be developed.

At the February 1, 2010 meeting the Conservation Commission decided that they did were not interested in the project at that time.

JEREMY LENNON - Variance

Map 2 Lot 129

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The Commission received a comment sheet from the ZBA relative to a Variance for Jeremy & Amanda Lennon to allow for their 52.35 acre property to be considered a single family house lot without the

proper minimum frontage. The lot contains 91.58' of the 150' frontage required for the 1981 creation of the parcel. The Members agreed to issue the comment; *There are prime wetlands and a stream on the lot and the Conservation Commission would like a condition stating that there shall be no further subdivision of the lot. The Conservation Commission requests that the landowner consider placing a Conservation Easement on the portion that contains the wetlands.*

SUBDIVISION REGS

Mbr. O'Brien suggested putting a note on subdivision plans: *There shall be no further alteration of wetlands for any purpose. This statement shall be placed on each deed.*

WITHAM/THAYER – Lot Line Adjustment

MAP 3 LOT 001 (internal parcels 1-1-45 & 1-1-46 of the Countryside Estates) and Map 5 Lot 058

The Commission received a comment sheet from the Planning Board relative to a Lot Line Adjustment between the above mentioned lots. The purpose of the proposed Lot Line Adjustment is to:

1. Convey 10,000 sq. ft. from Map 3 Lot 001 (internal parcel 1-1-46) to Map 5 lot 058.
2. Convey 10,000 sq. ft. from Map 5 Lot 058 to Map 3 Lot 001 (internal parcel 1-1-45).
3. Adjust the lot lines between the internal parcels of Map 3 Lot 001 involved by conveying 892 sq. ft from parcel 3-1-1-46 to 3-1-1-45.
4. Correct a 40 sq. ft. bearing error between the Thayer property (Map 5 Lot 058) and the Witham property (Map 3 Lot 001) from S68°07'09"E, as shown on the previous as-built plan (D-36043), to S68°09'34"E.

The Members offered no comment as there are no wetland issues.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Commission received the February 28, 2010 Treasurers Report which showed interest accrued in all accounts.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Notice of the Saving Special Places Annual conference scheduled for Saturday April 4, 2009. Mrs. Bolduc requested that anyone who wants to attend register through the Land Use Office so she can remit one payment for all. It was agreed that educational spending will be funded through the Residual Fund.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2010.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn at 9:55 pm. Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

Meredith Bolduc,

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Land Use AA/Recording Secretary